

Fraleigh, J.C.

How and why a  
war lord wages  
war

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# HOW AND WHY A WAR LORD WAGES WAR

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AN OPEN LETTER TO NEUTRALS

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Complacent and cozy under her shield of neutrality (*plus* three thousand miles of stormy sea) America is securely dozing; at times somewhat harrowed by the nightmare of carnage abroad, but, for the most part, dreaming of plans to capture South American trade.

Dreamer, your standards are antique, your safety a delusion.

Whilst you have been sleeping, both warfare and neutrality have been re-defined.

Fifty years ago, you learned that war was hell. To-day the very devils shudder at the manner of its waging. And the War Lord telegraphs that Almighty God brilliantly assisted the Crown Prince in his work.

Fifty years ago, you made quick atonement for the zeal of an officer who set foot upon the deck of the Trent. To-day I paint you a picture.

A German fleet, convoying transports for the invasion of Canada, finds Halifax not to its liking and the St. Lawrence and the Bay of Fundy dangerous to trespassers.

It anchors at Bar Harbor to disembark and gain an easier entrance across our territory. Maine rises. The invader burns Bangor, and shoots sundry unarmed men, because somebody showed fight. Portland, occupied without a struggle, learns that \$40,000,000 is fixed as the price of its ransom. In far away Boston, a Zeppelin, trying to drop bombs upon the State-House, mangles some women and children through imperfect marksmanship. The fleet protects its rear by strewing mines from Frenchman's Bay down to Cape Cod.

Hang beside this picture a scrap of paper guaranteeing the inviolable neutrality of Maine's territory in time of war, and bearing the signature of Imperial Germany, and you have the situation.

Fanciful? Perhaps. But if we care to look for a more vulnerable region and more probable event, sup-



pose that Germany should some day want a quick passage to the Pacific. Its navy is strong enough to land an expeditionary force, despite all that we could do, and our Canal would be at its mercy. Does anyone doubt for a moment what would happen, if the occasion should arise?

*Speech of the German Chancellor, delivered in the Reichstag on August 4, 1914:—*

“Gentlemen, we are now in a state of necessity, “and necessity knows no law! Our troops have “occupied Luxemburg, and perhaps are already on “Belgian soil. Gentlemen, that is contrary to the “dictates of international law. It is true that the “French Government has declared at Brussels “that France is willing to respect the neutrality of “Belgium as long as her opponent respects it. We “knew, however, that France stood ready for the “invasion. France could wait, but we could not “wait. A French movement upon our flank upon “the lower Rhine might have been disastrous. So “we were compelled to override the just protest “of the Luxemburg and Belgian Governments. “The wrong—I speak openly—that we are com- “mitting, we will endeavor to make good as soon “as our military goal has been reached. Anybody “who is threatened, as we are threatened, and is “fighting for his highest possessions *can have only* “*one thought—how he is to hack his way through.*”

The War Lord has decided that the privileges of a modern neutral are limited by the aphorism, “Do any- “thing to win, and do it quickly. If a neutral doesn’t “like being trampled on, shoot him whilst you’ve got “the drop on him.”

And why should anyone feel surprise?

For more than a quarter century he has concentrated all the resources of modern science and the mechanic



arts to construct a fighting machine, monstrous, implacable, marvellous in efficiency. Its spirit is the spirit which prompted an officer and gentleman to cut down with his sword a lame Zabern peasant, in time of peace, and which burned Louvain in time of war.

If this ideal of militant imperialism shall prevail, the price of our neutrality will be an annual increment of Dreadnoughts, a fleet of Zeppelins, and compulsory military service for our children's children.

So, Dear Neutral Land, and so only, *magst ruhig sein*.

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Why not then take a hand at re-defining, right now, whilst our action will be effective. Saying to the War Lord:—"You have elected to ply your trade on these lines, but the business is at your peril. If you should be so unlucky as to shed American blood upon neutral ground, or even in an enemy's territory, at a point remote from battle and without due warning; or if an American should be harmed, in person or property, by a mine of yours upon the high seas; we shall hold it to be an act of war."

"Advise" our fellow-neutral, Holland (whose present status is Germany's best asset), that it is contrary to the public policy of the world that Germany should have the benefits of Dutch neutrality for the entrance of supplies, whilst trampling on the obligations of neutrality towards her next door neighbor. Prohibit all shipments from the United States to Holland except upon the guarantee of the Dutch Government that they shall not go beyond her border. Exert all our influence upon the public opinion of the world to denounce the War Lord as an enemy of the human race.

If Germany should resent this, how could we make good?

Send our Atlantic fleet to co-operate with the Allies in closing the Baltic, and take along, as supply ships and colliers, every German vessel now in our ports. We shall find some of them loaded already.



What precedent exists for such a notice and demand?

The mouth of the War Lord is closed on the subject of precedents, but if we must have a formula to go by, wherein would our action differ, in spirit, from that which we have already done in Cuba and in Mexico?

We, the great Neutral Power of the World, who desire that all neutrality shall be alike effective and respected, find the situation intolerable. We know that the one hope of stopping wars, is to supply a world wide sanction for the support of international laws and morals. We have nothing to do with the reasons which led certain powers to engage that Belgian territory should be neutral in time of war. We have everything to do with this particular instance of treaty breaking, in that it constitutes a new departure, a crime against all neutrals. Treaties made for peace conditions are obviously liable to be broken in war, but a treaty made with special reference to war, belongs to that class of obligations whose infringement is like cheating at cards. The offender gets no second chance.

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In judging of the moral right to intervene, we should look not only at the War Lord's methods, but at his motives.

There are two sources of information, mutually corroborative. One is the self revelation contained in his personal correspondence with the Czar of Russia.

Replying to the protest of the Czar against the "mean" war which Austria was about to declare against a feeble nation, William of Prussia says, in effect, that the three Emperors should stand together in discouraging this business of assassination, and that here is an opportunity to give a sharp lesson safely. His entire argument is a cynical, clear cut appeal for the perpetuation of the Imperial military system.

The other source is the British White-Book; plain, business-like, unvarnished.

*Sir Edward Grey to the British Ambassador at Berlin,  
August 1, 1914:—*

“The Russian Government has communicated  
“to me the readiness of Austria to discuss with  
“Russia, and the readiness of Austria to accept a  
“basis of mediation which is not open to the objec-  
“tions raised in regard to the formula which Russia  
“originally suggested. Things ought not to be  
“hopeless, so long as Austria and Russia are ready  
“to converse and I hope that the German Govern-  
“ment may be able to make use of the Russian  
“communications referred to above, in order to  
“avoid tension.”

*British Ambassador at Berlin to Sir Edward Grey,  
August 1, 1914:—*

“I have communicated the substance of the above  
“telegram to the Secretary of State for Foreign  
“Affairs and spent a long time arguing with him  
“that the chief dispute was between Austria and  
“Russia, and that Germany was only drawn in as  
“Austria’s ally; if therefore Austria and Russia  
“were, as was evident, ready to discuss matters,  
“and Germany did not desire war on her own account,  
“it seemed to me only logical that Germany should  
“hold her hand and continue to work for a peaceful  
“settlement. Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs  
“said that Austria’s readiness to discuss was the  
“result of *German influence at Vienna*, and had  
“Russia not mobilized against Germany, all would  
“have been well.”

*British Ambassador at Vienna to Sir Edward Grey,  
July 30, 1914:—*

“Although I am not able to verify it, I have  
“private information that the German Ambassador  
“[at Vienna] knew the text of the Austrian ulti-  
“matum to Serbia before it was despatched, and



"telegraphed it to the German Emperor. *I know*  
*"from the German Ambassador himself that he en-*  
*"dorses every line of it."*

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Oh, Great People of South and Middle Germany; brave, kindly, lovers of the peaceful arts, lovers of liberty; you, who as you march, are singing of homes in Schwabenland and Bayerland, and where the grape blooms on the Rhine; how long will you sacrifice not only your blood and treasure, but your sacred honor, to uphold this spirit of inexorable militarism, foisted upon you under the pretence that through it your dear Fatherland may be at rest, but whose real purpose is that a Prussian shall write himself *Imperator et Rex*?

There will be no rest in Europe until certain things are settled, and these things are of the kind which are never settled until they are settled right.

Oh, indomitable Little People of Flanders and Brabant, the world owes you a second Lion Monument, that Waterloo may look across to Liege and proclaim that your blood has not been shed in vain.

Haply, when history records the annals of this century, it may be written that it was your self-sacrifice which stirred the neutral nations to decree the downfall of War Lords, for all time.

A SON OF THE REVOLUTION.

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